

"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. EV108874815US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Klaus Bruchmann)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
)	Attorney Docket: BRU6144P0040US
Serial No.:	10/031,830)	
)	
International)	Group Art Unit:
Filing Date:	July 20, 2000)	Not Yet Designated
)	
For:	FUSE COMBINATION UNIT)	Confirmation No. 5770
	AND OPERATING ROCKER)	
	WITH MONITORING DISPLAY)	
	(As Amended By The Enclosed)	
	Preliminary Amendment))	
)	
Examiner:	Not Yet Designated)	

SUBMISSION OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

Box PCT
Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

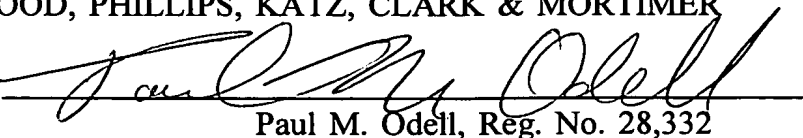
Sir:

Applicant hereby submits the English translation (pages 1 through 14) of the originally filed PCT application, including the specification, claims, and an unnumbered one-page ABSTRACT.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 8, 2001

Fused switch unit and switching rocker with a
monitoring indication

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5 The invention relates to a switching rocker for a fused switch unit as claimed in the preamble of claim 1, and to a fused switch unit as claimed in the preamble of claim 11.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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10 Fused switch units such as these, as well as switching rockers used in them, in whose fuse plugs fuse links can be inserted, are used in a wide range of embodiments in both private and commercial buildings, in particular in buildings in which machines are electrically operated. It is also possible to use such
15 fused switch units and components such as the switching rocker directly on or in machine elements or housings, for electrical protection of electrically operated machines.

20 A fused switch unit having a switching rocker of this generic type is known, for example, from DE 34 06 815 C2. Fused switch units such as these are used to interrupt the circuit of, and hence the electrical supply to, machines and appliances automatically when
25 the current intensity or the power in the circuit exceeds a specific, fixed value. In order to match these values to the circumstances, in particular to the electrical machines and appliances as well as external requirements, for example safety requirements, fuse
30 links which have different characteristic values can be inserted into the fused switch units, or into the fuse plug.

35 The purpose of these fused switch units is to reliably manually interrupt the circuit, in particular when it is necessary to carry out repairs to the electrical appliances and machines. To do this, the switching rocker which contains the fuse plug together with the

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corresponding fuse link, and which is mounted in a housing of the fused switch unit such that it can pivot between a switched-on position and a switched-off position, is moved to its switched-off position.

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Since the fuse links which are used in a fused switch unit are generally fuses of the type that blow by melting, which may be blown defectively or by an excessively high load, it is advantageous to monitor the serviceability of the fuse link by means of a monitoring apparatus. The monitoring of the serviceability of the fuse link should be understood as meaning both the monitoring of any defects which may be present in the fuse link itself and monitoring for any defect in the contact with the fuse link in a main circuit of the fused switch unit.

A monitoring circuit for this purpose is known, which bridges the input and the output of the fused switch unit, in parallel with the main circuit passing through the fuse link, via a very high-impedance connection. A lamp is normally integrated as the monitoring indication in the monitoring circuit.

A significant current flows through the very high-impedance monitoring circuit only when the low-impedance connection in the main circuit is interrupted, for example by the blowing of the fuse link. Other monitoring systems are also possible, but these are all based on an interruption in the main circuit causing visible changes to occur in the monitoring circuit, which are indicated by means of a monitoring indication. One problem in this context is the position of the monitoring indication.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, one object of the invention is to provide a low-cost fused switch unit having a long-life monitoring indication, which is arranged such that a simple structural design, in particular a compact

design of the fused switch unit, is possible, with the monitoring indication being intended to supply the operator with information which cannot be misunderstood.

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10 The object is achieved by a switching rocker for a fused switch unit as claimed in claim 1, and by a fused switch unit as claimed in claim 11. Claims 2 to 9 characterize advantageous embodiments of the switching rocker according to the invention, and claims 12 and 13 characterize advantageous embodiments of the fused switch unit according to the invention.

15 According to the invention, the arrangement of the indication in the switching rocker results in the indication being integrated very well in the structural design of the fused switch unit, without requiring any additional space. The indication can be integrated in the switching rocker, so that it is protected from the
20 outside and damage is avoided.

Furthermore, the switching rocker is a part which is subject to considerably less wear than the fuse plug. The life to be expected for the monitoring indication
25 is thus noticeably increased in comparison to accommodation in the fuse plug.

Furthermore, it is feasible to design the fuse link and the fuse plug as a unit, so that different fuse plugs
30 must be made available and interchanged, depending on the application. Since the monitoring indication is arranged in the switching rocker and not in a part subject to wear or in a part which can be lost or needs to be replaced regularly, this reduces the overall
35 costs of the fused switch unit.

In comparison to positioning of the monitoring indication in the housing of the fused switch unit, positioning in the switching rocker has, in particular,

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the advantage that the fused switch unit can be designed to be more compact. Installation in the housing would necessitate an increase in the height of the housing above the area of the switching rocker, in order to accommodate the monitoring indication in the housing. If the monitoring indication were arranged at the side in the housing, this would mean that the fused switch unit would have greater dimensions in this direction and, furthermore, that disadvantages would have to be accepted with regard to installation of the fused switch unit, since further areas of the fused switch unit need to be visible, that is to say they must not be covered by other elements. An installation of the fused switch unit in which only the minimal area around the operating grip of the switching rocker is visible is highly desirable, on the other hand, in particular for visual reasons, as well.

Furthermore, an arrangement of the monitoring indication in the housing means that it is visible not only when the switching rocker is in the switched-on position, but also when it is in the switched-off position. Since, for safety reasons, the monitoring circuit must be interrupted in the switched-off position, the monitoring indication in principle does not illuminate in the switched-off position, to be precise irrespective of the serviceability of the fuse link. It is thus possible, in particular, for an untrained operator to be irritated by the unilluminated monitoring indication in conjunction with an interrupted circuit in the switched-off position, possibly unnecessarily replacing serviceable parts, in particular a serviceable fuse link. Such an irritation to the operator is avoided by the arrangement according to the invention, when the monitoring indication is not externally visible in the switched-off position.

In one preferred embodiment, the monitoring indication is arranged in an inner area of the switching rocker.

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The monitoring indication is thus protected, so that no damage can occur, irrespective of whether this is due to external action by the operator or by contact with other parts of the fused switch unit.

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The indication is in this case preferably arranged behind a transparent window, or else the switching rocker is produced at least partially from transparent material, behind which the monitoring indication can be seen from the outside.

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It should be stressed that the arrangement in the inner area of the switching rocker is not intended to adversely affect the capability to replace the monitoring indication, and, in particular, the window mentioned above or area elements of the switching rocker, for example, can be opened in order, when necessary, to allow access to the monitoring indication. However, since the monitoring indications generally have an extremely long life and the time for which they are switched on and which governs the life is short, such replacement processes are necessary only extremely rarely, and the capability to replace the monitoring indication can thus also be dispensed with, in favor of simpler construction.

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It is advantageous to arrange the monitoring indication in the vicinity of an operating grip, in particular on that side of the switching rocker which faces the switched-off position. Thus, when the switching rocker is in the switched-on position, the monitoring indication is in a central, easily visible position, while it is automatically covered by parts of the housing as soon as the switching rocker is in its switched-off position. There is thus no need for any additional covering apparatuses, which results in a simplified structural design both of the switching rocker and of the fused switch unit.

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In one particularly preferred embodiment, the switching rocker furthermore has apparatuses for the monitoring circuit, in particular contact elements, and advantageously spring elements, which close the monitoring circuit when the switching rocker is in the switched-on position, and interrupt it when the switching rocker is in the switched-off position. This results in an advantageous design, in which only simple contact elements need be provided in the housing of the fused switch unit.

The apparatuses for the monitoring circuit are advantageously likewise arranged in the interior of the switching rocker, preferably in the area of the monitoring indication. The interior is essentially closed, and has only contact openings, in order that contact can be made with the contact elements arranged in the housing.

The contact and/or connecting elements which make contact with the apparatuses for the monitoring circuit when the switching rocker is in the switched-on position are preferably elements of the main circuit. This means that there is no need to provide any additional elements, thus reducing the costs and the susceptibility of the fused switch unit to defects.

However, it is also possible to provide at least one contact apparatus, preferably a spring apparatus, which makes contact with at least one contact element in the monitoring circuit when the switching rocker assumes its switched-on position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described in more detail in the following text with reference to the schematic illustration of a fused switch unit and a switching rocker, in which:

Figure 1 shows a cross-sectional view of one

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embodiment of a fused switch unit with a switching rocker in the switched-on position, and

Figure 2 shows the fused switch unit as shown in Figure 1, with the switching rocker in the switched-off position.

Figure 1 shows one embodiment of a fused switch unit 1 with a housing 2 and a switching rocker 30 in the switched-on position. A fuse plug 10, which holds a fuse link 20, is inserted into the switching rocker 30.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

When the switching rocker 30 is in the switched-on position, the fuse link 20 is connected by means of contact elements 70, 71, 72, 73 to an input and an output, so that the main circuit is closed. The fuse link 20 is in this case pressed by a spring apparatus 98 against the direct contact elements 70, as well as 71 and 72.

The contact element 70, which is in the form of a spring, in this case essentially carries out three functions. Contact is made via the contact element 70 with the electronics arranged in the fused switch unit. Furthermore, the element 70, which is in the form of a spring, holds the fuse link 20 in the desired position relative to the fuse plug 10 and, furthermore, fixes the position of the fuse plug 10 in the switching rocker 30.

The monitoring circuit likewise uses the contact elements 70, 71 of the main circuit on one side, and closes the monitoring circuit via further contact elements 50, 52, 53 and a high-value resistor 51. The contact elements 50 and 52 as well as the resistor 51 are arranged in the interior 32 of the switching rocker 30.

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The contact elements 50, 52 and 53 are likewise spring elements, thus ensuring reliable contact.

Furthermore, an optical monitoring indication, a lamp
5 35 which is indicated only schematically here, is
arranged in the interior 32 of the switching rocker 30.
As soon as the main circuit is interrupted, in
particular by the fuse link 20 blowing, a sufficient
current flows through the monitoring circuit to
10 illuminate the monitoring indication 35. This indicates
that there is a defect in the main circuit.

The monitoring indication 35 is positioned behind a
transparent window 33, so that the operator can see the
15 monitoring light in the switching rocker 30, which is
otherwise composed of material that is not transparent.

The interior 32 of the switching rocker 30 in which, as
described above, both the lamp 35 and a number of
20 apparatuses for the monitoring circuit are arranged, is
essentially completely closed, thus preventing damage
to the apparatuses. The interior 32 has only two
contact openings 56 and 57, in order to allow contact
between the contact apparatuses 52 and 53, as well as
25 50 and 70. The contact between the elements 50 and 70
is always closed as soon as a fuse plug 10 with a fuse
link 20 is inserted into the switching rocker 30. The
contact between the contact elements 52 and 53 exists
only when the switching rocker 30 assumes its switched-
30 on position.

Figure 2 shows the switching rocker 30 in its switched-
off position. It can be seen that both the main circuit
and the monitoring circuit are each interrupted twice,
35 namely firstly between the contact elements 70 and 71
and between the contact element 72 and the fuse link
20, and secondly at the jointly used contact elements
70 and 71, as well as at the contact elements 52 and
53.

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The sprung contact element 53 engages in a recess 80 in the outer wall of the inner area 32 of the switching rocker 30, and is thus positioned reliably.

- 5 The connection between the contact elements 50 and 70 still exists, since the fuse plug 10, together with the fuse link 20, is still in the operating position in the switching rocker 30.
- 10 As can likewise be seen from Figure 2, the monitoring indication 35 is covered on the outside both by the operating grip 31 of the switching rocker 30 and by the housing 2, so that the monitoring indication 35 cannot be seen by the observer. The monitoring indication 35
- 15 can be seen only when the switching rocker 30 is in the switched-on position, since it is then in a central position within an opening 90 in the housing 2, through which the operating grip of the switching rocker 30 projects.

- 20 Both the operating grip 31 on the switching rocker 30 and the grip part 11 of the fuse plug 10 have through-openings 95 and 96, which are offset with respect to one another when the fuse plug 10 is in a limit
- 25 position such that it is inserted into the switching rocker 30, and they are thus not aligned with one another. These through-openings 95, 96 are used for an interlocking apparatus (not shown) to be passed through.

- 30 In order to pass the interlocking apparatus through, the fuse plug 10 must be withdrawn from its limit position in the switching rocker 30, so that the through-openings 95 and 96 are at least partially
- 35 aligned. An interlocking apparatus which is then pushed through the through-openings 95, 96 prevents the fuse plug 10 from being pushed back to its limit position. However, if the fuse plug 10 is not in its limit position, the switching rocker 30 cannot be pivoted to

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its switched-on position, since parts of the fuse plug
10 abut against parts of the housing 2, and prevent the
switching rocker 30 from being switched to the
switched-on position. The switching rocker 30 is thus
reliably held in its switched-off position, which is of
particular importance when it is necessary to carry out
repairs on machines or electrical appliances which are
supplied via the fused switch unit 1. This thus
reliably prevents accidental switching on, or switching
on caused, for example, by vibration, and hence
prevents any hazard to the operator.

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List of reference symbols

1	Fused switch unit
2	Housing
10	Fuse plug
11	Grip part (fuse plug)
20	Fuse link
30	Switching rocker
31	Operating grip (switching rocker)
32	Inner area (switching rocker)
33	Window
35	Monitoring indication
50	Contact element
51	Resistor
52	Contact element
53	Contact apparatus (housing)
56, 57	Contact opening
70, 71, 72, 73	Contact elements
90	Opening (housing)
95, 96	Through-openings (fuse plug and operating grip)
98	Spring apparatus

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